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Chief Librarian of Library of Tokyo University of Agriculture
Chief Librarian of Library of the Faculty of Agriculture
Chief Librarian of Library of the Faculty of Bioindustry

Be aware of **Predatory Journals!**

What are Predatory Journals?

Predatory journals are malicious journals that exploit the business models of open access journals. **They are targeting the article processing charge (APC) paid by the author.**

In order to make researchers confused, predatory journals use similar logos and names of well-known academic journals, introduce well-known researchers as editors without their consent, or show indicators similar to the impact factor. Therefore, researchers may post their thesis by mistake.

What are the problems of a Predatory Journal?

- Many Predatory Journal editors do not conduct proper peer-review and evaluate papers correctly.
- There is no guarantee of stable access to articles
- If you post your articles to predatory journals by mistake and try to withdraw the article, you may not get a response or you may be charged an unreasonably high fee.
- Even if you withdrawal your articles from a predatory Journal, it will be difficult to confirm whether it is actually withdrawn or deleted, as a result, you will lose the opportunity to publish your articles.
- Publishing in predatory journals may result in losing the author's trust and reliability.

How to judge whether it is a Predatory Journal or not?

Please access the following URL to judge whether it is a Predatory Journal or not;

Think Check Submit

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/translations/japanese/>

Some famous academic publishing organizations operate this website and support authors posting to reliable academic journals.

You can check the reliability of the journal you are posting to by checking the list.

Web of Science : Master Journal List

<https://mil.clarivate.com/home>

This is a free tool that you can search for journals that have been recorded on the Web of Science. This is the world's largest academic literature database. You can check whether the journal you are posting is actually a journal in circulation.

COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)

<https://publicationethics.org/>

You can check whether the publisher of the journal is registered.

However, it is hard to judge whether a Predatory Journal or not, and although there are information sources called "blacklists" and "whitelists" on the website, they are not perfect. In particular, Kakenhi recommends open access system, so it seems that there are cases where people post their articles without checking whether it is a Predatory Journal.

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/01_seido/08_openaccess/index.html

You are responsible for checking the journal information carefully before submitting your articles!

Other Information

- 「Withdrawal of accepted manuscript from predatory journal」
<https://publicationethics.org/case/withdrawal-accepted-manuscript-predatory-journal>
- Case study of posting the thesis to a Predatory Journal
It introduces an answer to consultation on how to withdraw a paper submitted by mistake. This article is also translated into Japanese.
→ 「Predator—a case of Predatory Publishing—」
(出典：『日本消化器外科学会雑誌』 50(11).2017. p.937-940)
https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jjgs/50/11/50_937/article/-char/ja
- How to identify Predatory Journals (bad journals), or request peer review
<https://www.bochibochi-pathology.com/entry/hagetaka2>
You can get extensive information about the Predatory Journal.